

# Seven Locks study moves forward

## EXAMINER

Eight options on the table

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The Montgomery County school system's preferred option for replacing Seven Locks Elementary School in Potomac took a beating Thursday as County Council members debated whether to remove it from consideration or just strongly recommend against it.

Committee Chairman Michael Subin, D-at large, appealed for peace following years of wrangling over the plan to build a replacement school on nearby Kendale Road.

"Everybody's right. Everybody's wrong," he said. "I want to take today and this session as a chance for all of us to start at the same place."

Council Member Howard Dennis, R-District 1, sought to have the school system's plan to replace Seven Locks with a new building on nearby Kendale Road taken off the list of eight alternatives.

"Given the unanimous testimony against that site, I think that should be removed as an option," he said.

In the end, parents in attendance held up signs saying "thank you" after the council said the Kendale school would not likely receive council approval but would remain under consideration.

The present school at the corner of Seven Locks Road and Bradley Boulevard, built to hold about 250 students, now has about twice that many.

School system officials drew fire earlier this year as reports surfaced that they did not provide information on all options before the council agreed to fund \$14 million to replace the school.

Schools Superintendent Jerry Weast said the committee should not limit the options on the table.

The working group studying those options has four weeks to look at all aspects of the eight plans and make its recommendation.

After the council approved the alternatives Thursday, Subin said no other options will be considered.

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